

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 AID-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NEA-10 NSAE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1450

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION USNATO

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L OECD PARIS 32514

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, OECD

SUBJECT: ENERGY ACTION GROUP PROPOSAL: INITIAL OECD REACTIONS

1. SHORTLY BEFORE DEC 19 MEETINGS OF OIL COMMITTEE AND ITS HIGH-LEVEL GROUP, CHARGE (BROWN) HAD A FIRST EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON SECRETARY KISSINGER'S PROPOSAL FOR AN ENERGY ACTION GROUP WITH SECRETARY-GENERAL VAN LENNEP AND WITH THE HEADS OF THOSE DELEGATIONS REPRESENTED ON THE HLG (CANADA, FRANCE, GERMANY, ITALY, JAPAN, NETHERLANDS, NORWAY, UNITED KINGDOM, AND THE EC COMMISSION, IN ADDITION TO THE U.S.). ALTHOUGH IT WAS TOO
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EARLY FOR HEADS OF DELEGATION TO HAVE RECEIVED

INSTRUCTIONS FROM THEIR CAPITALS, THEY AND THE SECRETARY-GENERAL GENERALLY CHARACTERIZED THE SECRETARY'S INITIATIVE AS IMPORTANT AND CONSTRUCTIVE, THOUGH REQUIRING A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF ELABORATION AND DISCUSSION TO DETERMINE HOW IT MIGHT BEST BE RELATED TO THE CURRENT BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL COOPERATIVE EFFORTS UNDERWAY OR ANNOUNCED. THERE WAS A CLEAR DISPOSITION TO BE FLEXIBLE WITH RESPECT TO MAJOR EFFORTS ALREADY UNDERWAY IN THE OECD (TO ASSESS THE LONG-TERM ENERGY SITUATION IN A POLICY PERSPECTIVE, TO PRODUCE A CLEARING-HOUSE FOR ENERGY R & D INFORMATION, AND TO ADOPT A DRAFT OECD-WIDE EMERGENCY OIL SHARING SCHEME) IN ORDER TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE SECRETARY'S PROPOSAL AS WELL AS OF THE DRASTICALLY CHANGED SITUATION SINCE THESE EFFORTS WERE FIRST UNDERTAKEN.

2. CHARGE EXPLAINED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL PRIVATELY, AND LATER TO THE MEETING OF THE HLG HEADS OF DELEGATION CHAIRED BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, THAT THE ENERGY ACTION GROUP PROPOSAL PRESENTS THE BROAD OUTLINES OF A NECESSARY ELEMENT IN THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS, WHICH GOES BEYOND CURRENT BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL EFFORTS. THE DETAILS REMAIN TO BE WORKED OUT IN COOPERATION WITH OTHER MAJOR CONSUMERS, AND IN LIGHT OF THEIR VIEWS AND PREFERENCES.

3. THE DECLARATION ON ENERGY OF THE EC COPENHAGEN SUMMIT, DISCUSSED BRIEFLY AT THE MEETING, WAS CLEARLY CONSIDERED BY MOST OF THE PARTICIPANTS AS REPRESENTING A POLICY TO BE RECONCILED WITH THE ENERGY ACTION GROUP PROPOSAL. A NUMBER OF DELEGATES, ESPECIALLY THOSE OF GERMANY AND JAPAN, THOUGHT THE OECD MIGHT PLAY A KEY ROLE IN THIS PROCESS THROUGH CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH THE NEW GROUP. IT WAS AGREED, HOWEVER, THAT IT WAS PREMATURE TO GO VERY FAR INTO THE ESSENTIALLY PROCEDURAL QUESTION OF INSTITUTIONAL LINKS BEFORE THE SECRETARY'S PROPOSAL WAS ELABORATED IN GREATER DETAIL.

4. THE SECRETARY-GENERAL PERSONALLY WELCOMED SECRETARY KISSINGER'S INITIATIVE FOR COOPERATION AND STATED HIS WILLINGNESS TO HELP IN WHATEVER WAY HE COULD. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE SAID THAT THE OECD COULD ADAPT THE FOCUS AND

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OBJECTIVES OF ITS LONG-TERM ENERGY ASSESSMENT, WHICH IS BEING GREATLY ACCELERATED IN ANY CASE IN LIGHT OF THE CHANGED SITUATION SINCE ITS INAUGURATION. IN THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S VIEW, THERE APPEARS TO BE A VERY CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE WORK OF THE OECD, WHICH IS CLOSELY ORIENTED TO POLICY, AND THAT PROPOSED FOR THE ENERGY ACTION GROUP.

5. COMMENT: WE WERE GENERALLY PLEASED WITH THE PRELIMINARY REACTIONS HERE TO THE EAG PROPOSAL. THE MAIN FOCUS WAS ON SUBSTANCE AND ACCOMMODATION, THOUGH INSTITUTIONAL CONCERNS NATURALLY WERE NOT ABSENT. IF EXPLORATIONS THROUGH VARIOUS DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS SHOW THAT THERE IS SUBSTANTIAL SUPPORT FOR ASSOCIATING EAG WITH THE OECD, WE BELIEVE USG SHOULD GIVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO SUCH AN APPROACH. OECD PROCEDURES WOULD PERMIT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A RESTRICTED GROUP IN SEVERAL WAYS. IT COULD BE DONE BY COUNCIL DECISION OR BY SECGEN BEING AUTHORIZED TO CONVOKE GROUP OF HIS CHOOSING, THOUGH EITHER OF THESE METHODS WOULD SEEM TO REQUIRE GREATER POLITICAL WILL THAN NOW EXISTS TO OVERCOME CHRONIC OPPOSITION TO SMALL RESTRICTED GROUPS. A MORE LIKELY PROCEDURE IN OUR VIEW WOULD BE TO ESTABLISH THE EAG THROUGH DIRECT BILATERAL NEGOTIATION WITH OTHER PARTICIPATING NATIONS OR GROUPS OR THROUGH A COMBINATION OF THIS AND ACTION BY THE SECGEN ON HIS OWN RESPONSIBILITY; OECD COULD THEN BE ENCOURAGED TO ASSOCIATE ITSELF AND ITS FACILITIES TO EAG MORE FULLY.
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